

Lost Connections

A new archive film created in response to an extraordinary time in all our lives

Can we always be connected?



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About *Lost Connections*

Lost Connections is a new archive short film created in response to our extraordinary collective experiences since March 2020.

It is not a film about the pandemic, it is a film about recovery from feelings of loss, loneliness and isolation to the joy of renewal, and hope for the future as we gradually reconnect with each other, and with our communities and surroundings.

Commissioned by the BFI Film Audience Network, *Lost Connections* opened up a unique opportunity for national and regional film archive curators to come together to share their collections and knowledge, and create this new film, drawing on over a century of archive footage that reflects back and responds to the changing national mood throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

The *Lost Connections* short film, accompanying guide and social media packages have all been designed for exhibitors to use freely as part of their reopening programmes.

Lost Connections is completely free to book from July 2021. The short is available for both in-venue and online screenings, and is also available as a captioned version.

“Poignant and thoughtful, it suggests that based on our past resilience we can allow ourselves a sliver of optimism for the future.”

A powerfully cathartic experience

for big and small screens.”

Caroline Hennigan
Broadway



Creating *Lost Connections*

Lost Connections presented curators from the twelve national and regional archives across the UK with the opportunity to come together to explore how their collections could respond to the tumultuous time we have all been through.

The search uncovered imagery and voices on film, video and born-digital formats that resonated with the feelings of uncertainty and disconnection but that also conveyed a collective desire for reconnection with people, community and nature.

Using the source material from over 500 films, Andy Burns - editor and filmmaker at Yorkshire Film Archive - meticulously crafted a dialogue between the past and the present, using over 200 of the films put forward by the archive curators.

As an echo of our own contemporary experiences, artist and performer Hussina Raja provided a connecting voice, responding to the imagery with a common and recurring thread that weaves through the film: 'Can we always be connected?'

“It’s a film about recovery...”

Though it takes the past as its reference point, the purpose of the project was to say something about our collective responsibility to build better futures.

We might be feeling diminished by the pandemic and there is much to reflect on, but there is also much to live for too.

We wanted the film to honour these mixed feelings about our gradual reconnection with each other, our communities and the world around us.”

Dr Emily Munro
National Library of Scotland



The films behind the film

Lost Connections contains footage from over 200 films held by the UK's regional and national film archives.

Each of the films featured in *Lost Connections* has its own historical integrity in terms of its subject, form and nature (e.g. gauge, black & white, colour, silent, sound, length) as well as its own production, exhibition and legal contexts.

Below you'll find details of some of the source films featured in *Lost Connections* which speak to the key themes of the film: loneliness, isolation, communication, human touch, nature and hope for the future.

For more information on these films, or wider archive collections, [contact your national or regional archive.](#)



Danger Signal

Dir: H. A. V. Bulleid - 1935, 47mins, Derby

A tragic tale of young love hindered by the cruelty of society and prevailing attitudes towards disability.

[East Anglia Film Archive](#)

Weddings and Gas Masks

Dir: James Newbold - c. 1940, 10mins, Hillingdon

A home movie documenting various weddings, happy domestic scenes and family trips to the beach throughout the 40s and 50s.

[London's Screen Archives](#)

All in a Day

Dir: C & R Whitcombe - 1952, 11mins, Brattleby

A typically busy day in the life of the Whitcombe family in Lincolnshire as they go about their domestic chores.

[Media Archive for Central England at Lincoln University](#)

Second Glance: Hands

Dir: Eddie McConnell - 1983, 15mins, Glasgow

An artistic exploration of the capability of the human hand and its uses as a tool for creation, care and communication. Scenes range from the shipyards of the Clyde to a performing string quartet.

[National Library of Scotland](#)

Your Hand in Mine

Dir: Geoffrey Wyn Thomas - 1980, 26mins, Cardiff

A documentary exploring life at a care home for the elderly in Cardiff.

[National Library of Wales Screen and Sound Archive](#)

The Road to Blaydon

Dir: Robert Tyrrell - 1968, 32mins, Newcastle upon Tyne

Houses are demolished and communities displaced as the Scotswood Road area of Newcastle undergoes redevelopment.

[North East Film Archive](#)

The Year of the Disabled

Ulster Television - 1981, 20mins, Belfast

Dissatisfaction is rife as the Ministry of Health withdraws motorised trikes supplied by the NHS.

[Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive](#)

Late Hope Street

Dir: Alan Murgatroyd - 1968, 14mins, Manchester

Scenes from the redevelopment of the Beswick area of Manchester as people leave condemned houses, walk through the rubble and mourn the loss of a community.

[North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University](#)

The Last Chord

Dir: J. Hanson and R. P. Cue - c. 1947, 11mins, Ashford

A young merchant seaman is shipwrecked and then saved by a lifeboat crew. His wife, at home with their infant child, receives news of his rescue via letter.

[Screen Archive South East](#)

What is Love?

Westward TV - 1965, 1min, Plymouth

The people of Plymouth are asked “what is love?” Some responses dwell on companionship, affection, sex, care and connection, while others find it altogether more difficult to define.

[SWFTA Collection, The Box Plymouth](#)

Family Christmas Home Movie

Dir: William Saville - 1948, 8mins

A home movie showing a family Christmas gathering in 1948 at the height of post-War austerity. Relatives are welcomed into the home to enjoy gifts, food and card games.

[Wessex Film and Sound Archive](#)

Once Upon a Sunday

Dir: W Davidson - 1969, 10mins, Leeds

A young couple’s experience of the sunny optimism and psychedelia of the 1960s stands in stark contrast to the gritty urban environment around them.

[Yorkshire Film Archive](#)

Booking *Lost Connections*

Lost Connections is available to book for online and in-venue screenings from July 2021. If you're a member of your local Film Hub, you can book the film for free.

To enquire about a screening, simply fill in the online booking form.

BOOK NOW

Exhibitors who book *Lost Connections* will receive the film files, 1-2min curated trailers for use in social media and marketing campaigns, and an asset pack featuring approved images and copy.

Lost Connections

2021

13mins 19s

Colour and Black & White

BBFC: U

Captions available

Available on DCP, DVD & Digital File

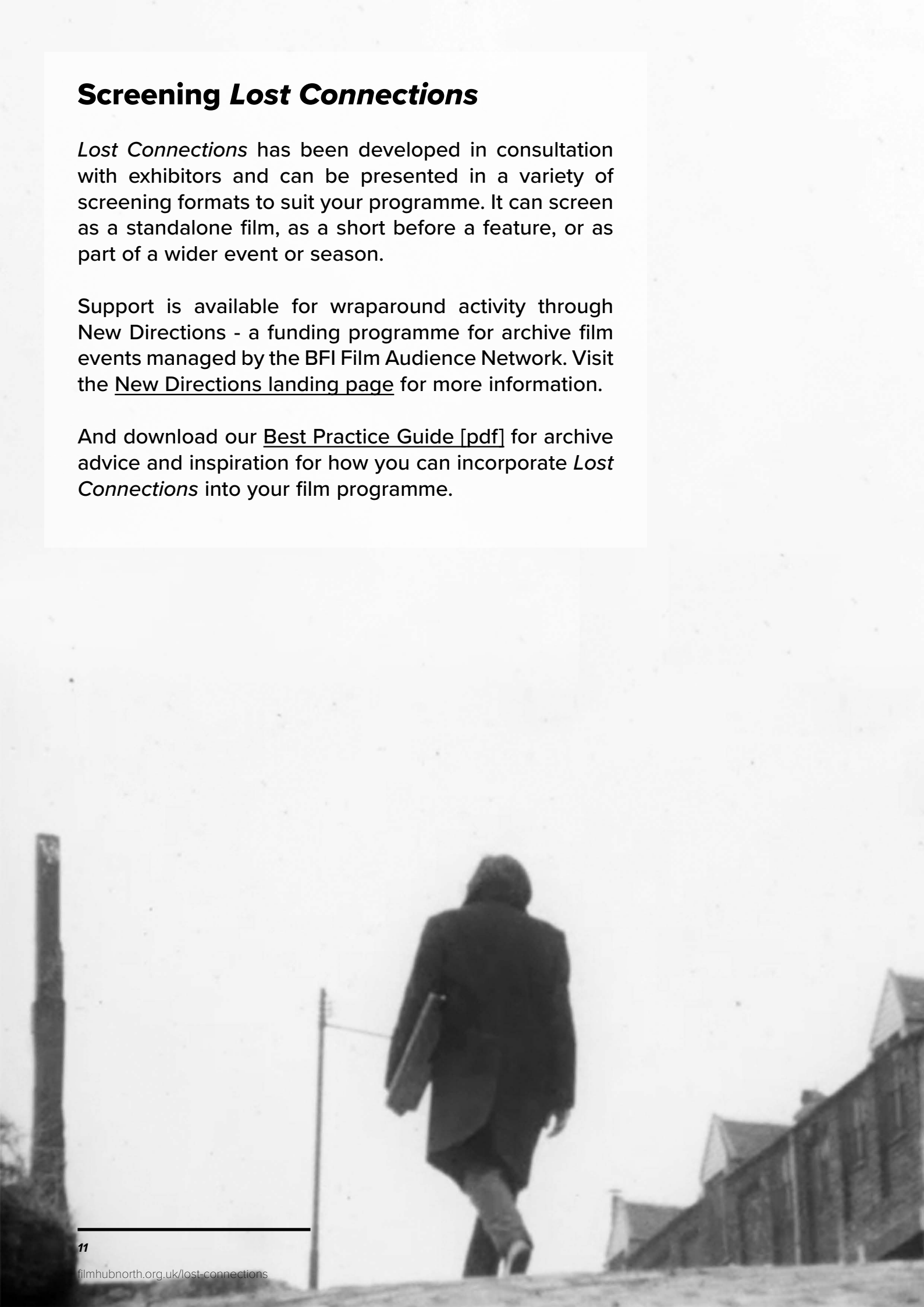


Screening *Lost Connections*

Lost Connections has been developed in consultation with exhibitors and can be presented in a variety of screening formats to suit your programme. It can screen as a standalone film, as a short before a feature, or as part of a wider event or season.

Support is available for wraparound activity through New Directions - a funding programme for archive film events managed by the BFI Film Audience Network. Visit the [New Directions landing page](#) for more information.

And download our [Best Practice Guide \[pdf\]](#) for archive advice and inspiration for how you can incorporate *Lost Connections* into your film programme.



Acknowledgements

Lost Connections

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Contact Film Hub North

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Contact your archive

[SWFTA Collection, The Box Plymouth](#)

[East Anglia Film Archive](#)

[London's Screen Archives](#)

[Media Archive for Central England at Lincoln University](#)

[National Library of Scotland](#)

[National Library of Wales Screen and Sound Archive](#)

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